

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Vol. 84 No.6

MONDAY
Feb. 4, 2008

MTSUSIDELINES.com

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

Recording industry fraternity hosts concert

By Tiffany Gibson

Assistant News Editor

Omega Delta Psi Recording Industry Fraternity hosted an artist showcase Friday at the Walnut House to raise funds for additional costs needed for the grant project.

The doors opened at 8 p.m. with an admission of \$5, while the show began at 9 p.m.

The bands performing in the showcase were Hop the Fence, A Grand Atlantic and Mike Mason. All three bands were chosen by Omega Delta Psi to perform in the showcase based on an anonymous popular vote on the two tracks each of them recorded in the Walnut Studio.

"Each band [out of eight during the competition] was represented by a member of Omega Delta Psi to work with for four hours in the studio, while the members only had three hours to mix the tracks," said Mike Mason, freshman, recording industry major.

All of the recordings took place at the Walnut House Studio, which was provided by owner and faculty member, Nathan Adam.

"We are the first recording industry fraternity in the world, so in order to help our members we wanted this project to be a way of networking, production technology, business and song-writing," said Rachel Sims, junior, president of Omega Delta Psi.

Initially, the grant project was open to all types of genres ranging from hip-hop to metal. "We wanted to gain hands-on experience to prepare us for our careers, and working with new genres is a good way to learn," said Omega Delta Psi Historian Lenny Leithauser.

In order to proceed with the grant project idea, seven members of Omega Delta Psi applied for a grant through the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity at MTSU, which serves as a program to finance students wishing to participate in creative projects.

"Only three of us were awarded the grant, but it is still a big deal because in order to get a grant every teacher from every department has to de-

cide on it," said Sue Ann Holton, senior recording industry production technology major.

Once the funds were gathered for the project, Omega Delta Psi began an open call for bands to record in the studio. According to Leithauser, eight bands were recorded and voted on by members of Omega Delta Psi to perform; however, the band chosen to work with to produce an EP over the next six months were Hop the Fence.

In addition to providing studio time for Hop the Fence, Omega Delta Psi also plans to market, mix and master their CD release.

"As of now the opportunities are endless for us because ODP [Omega Delta Psi] are helping to put our name out there," said Miles Slinde, lead singer of Hop the Fence.

Omega Delta Psi members, who contributed with sound equipment and the recording process of the show, organized the entire showcase.

"This is a great opportunity that Omega Delta Psi asked us to come play because we get a free recording out of it and get to play in front of our brothers and sisters," said Kevin Duff, Omega Delta Psi member and guitarist for A Grand Atlantic. "Our manager could be out in the audience already and we don't even know it."

During the show, refreshments were served in the upstairs kitchen of the Walnut House as the artists performed in the performance venue with a mixture of covers such as Aerosmith's "Milk Cow Blues," rendered by Mike Mason. Hop the Fence also did a cover of "Teenage Dirtbag" by Wheatus while A Grand Atlantic belted out an original tune entitled "Champagne."

According to Sims, this project is something she feels passionately about to become a tradition for future years that will inspire more hands-on experience and involvement with new members as well as alumni.

"We have alumni supporters but originally we were the ones that had to get this fraternity off the ground," said Nathan Toth, senior, future candidate for Omega Delta Psi vice president. "You only learn how to do something by doing it, and this project was a way to continue our education outside of the classroom."



PHOTOS BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Above: Mike Mason performs Friday at the Walnut House.

Below: The audience takes in Mason's set. Mason was booked by Omega Delta Psi.



INSIDE

Uninsured affected by flu season

Lack of affordable health insurance can be detrimental to students.

See OPINIONS, 4

The Pilates movement

Flexible exercise tones both the body and the mind for students eager to get into shape for Spring Break.

See FEATURES, 6

Lady Raiders overcome adversity



MT has managed to go 9-2 in Sun Belt Conference play despite injuries and Johnna Abney's leave of absence

See SPORTS, 8

Local Forecast

Monday



HI: 65
LO: 54

Tuesday



HI: 60
LO: 37

Wednesday



HI: 40
LO: 33

Thursday



HI: 43
LO: 37

Index

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Campus Briefs..... | 3 |
| Faces in the crowd..... | 4 |
| Sudoku..... | 5 |
| Comics..... | 5 |
| Student Events | 7 |

Campus News

Shortfalls delay new building

By Haley V. Hartsook

Contributing Writer

The construction of MTSU's new science building has been postponed a year due to cuts in Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen's proposed budget for 2008.

The projected state budget was \$400 million less than expected, due to a lack of revenue this year. Bredesen said that he was forced to make some "hard decisions," the first of which cut funding to all capital outlay projects for the year. MTSU's new science building was at the top of that list.

The \$115 million facility was supposed to be completed in 2009. It would house both the biology and chemistry departments and include a chiller plant to power it.

Sidney McPhee, president of MTSU, said that it is the largest funded project in Tennessee history for higher education in cost, size and scope.

McPhee said that he was disappointed,

but not surprised by the decision, given the state of the economy. However, he emphasized that the longer the project was delayed, the more expensive it would be in the end.

Jerry Preston, the executive director of facilities office development for the Tennessee Board of Regents, said that the project escalates at a minimum of \$8 million to \$9 million a year. Preston said that while they had asked for \$115 million this year, they would likely have to ask for \$123 million or \$125 million next year.

George G. Murphy, a professor and the department chair for biology, has been working on developing the new science building for twenty years.

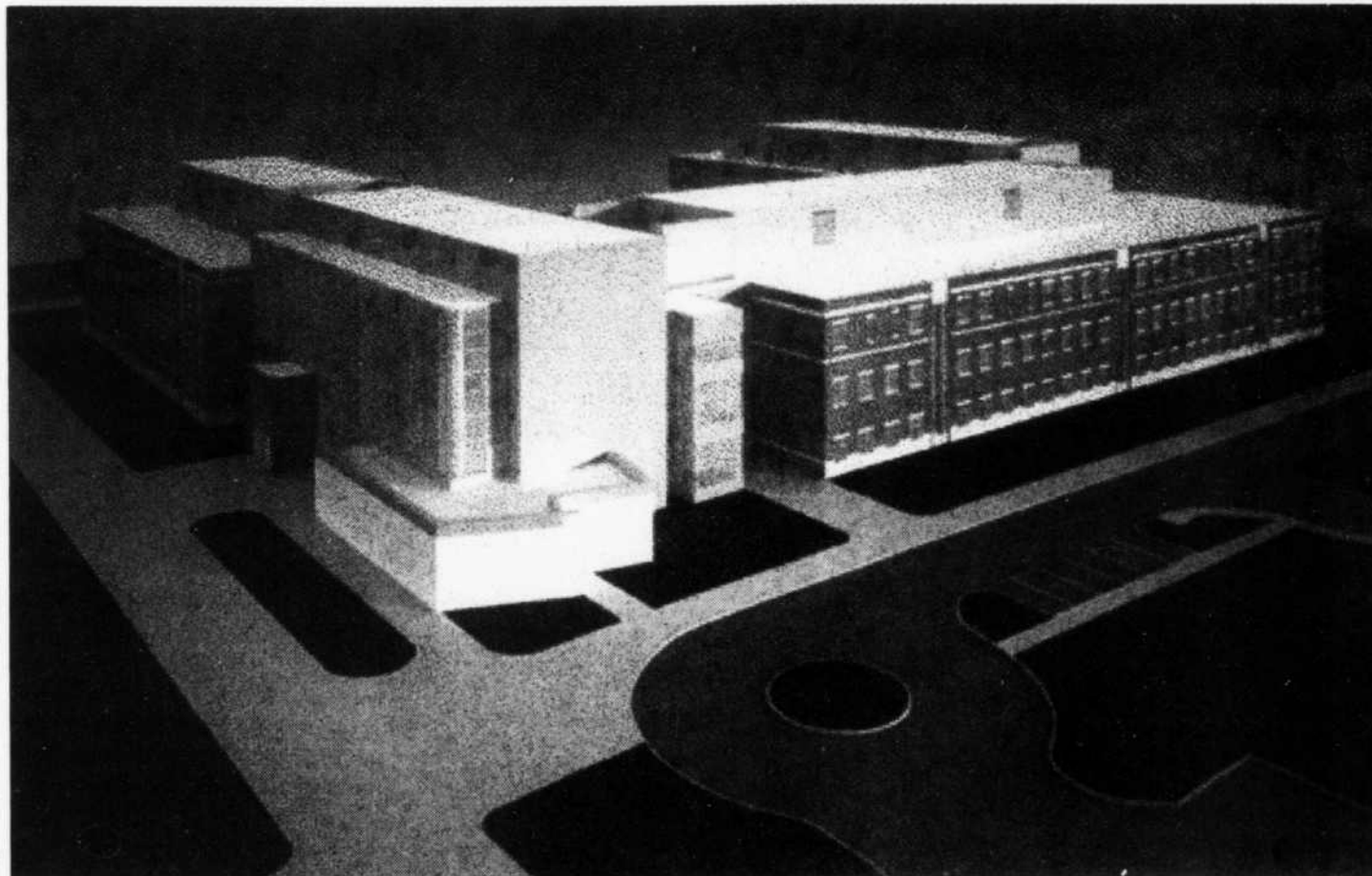
Murphy said that the decision to push back the construction of the science building was "short-sighted." He said the building would serve the economy by training students in areas of science and engineering, both driving forces in the American economy.

Murphy cited the America Competes Act, which was implemented by Congress in early 2007. The act was a response to the "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report that was compiled by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine.

The report emphasized America's need to improve math and science education in order to stay competitive globally. One of the America Competes Act's major points was to improve educational opportunities in science, technology, and mathematics from elementary school through graduate school.

Murphy was also concerned that due to the lack of facilities, the biology department would not be able to attract new professors or keep the present faculty. He explained that the basic facilities were put in place 40 years ago. Since that time the field of biol-

See FACILITY, 3



CONCEPT ART PROVIDED BY GEORGE MURPHY, BIOLOGY DEPT. CHAIR

An artist's rendition of the proposed science facility, which is expected to be between 250 and 260 thousand square feet, of which 133 thousand will be usable.

Bible Park USA to unveil plans

Open house meetings take place next week in Murfreesboro, Smyrna, La Vergne

By Brian Estes
Staff Writer

Citizens of Murfreesboro, Smyrna and La Vergne will soon get their chance to take an up-close look at the latest plans for Bible Park USA.

Park developers will unveil designs during an open house meeting in Murfreesboro, which will take place Feb. 12 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lane Agri-Park at 315 John R. Rice Blvd.

Smyrna residents will get their chance to see the plans on Feb. 12 at the Smyrna Town Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. La Vergne's open house meeting will be on Feb. 11 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the city's Multi-Purpose Building.

Park consultants will be on hand to answer any questions.

After the meetings, developers will submit the proposal to the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners. If approved, the park could be open by 2010, according to Armon Bar-Tur, man-

aging director of Safeharbor Holding.

Bar-Tur said the idea of the park is not to instruct people on what they should believe.

"You take away from it what you want," Bar-Tur said. "That's the beauty of the park. If you want to view it as a story or symbolism, that's great. And if you want to accept it as fact, that's great too."

Upon entering the park, guests will cross a bridge that leads them into a village constructed to authentically resemble a Galilean village in the time of Christ. From there, they will be able to venture into the New Testament section, which will feature a theater in which plays derived from biblical stories will be performed.

They will also be able to enter the Old Testament section, which will feature the Exodus experience. Bar-Tur said guests will walk into a darkened room, and huge flames will shoot up before them. A voice will tell them to step forward, and large plumes of water will shoot 20 feet

into the air.

The park will also feature the Dome of the Light, a recording studio that will be used by choirs and Christian recording artists. In addition, this studio presents a possible opportunity for Bible Park USA and the MTSU recording department to be able to form a partnership, said Terri Sterling, owner of Sterling Communications.

Sterling said this may lead to Bible Park USA taking on interns from MTSU and the possibility of students in the recording industry management program to take advantage of the studio.

"There's nothing like this out there in the marketplace today that brings all these components together into one site," Sterling said.

Bar-Tur said that attention has been given to reducing the sound and light emitted from the park, and that developers have been working with the O'Hannan Group on the Dark Skies project.

Bar-Tur said the problem lies in the fact that conventional lighting would likely project light

far into the night sky as well as lighting the park, and that the bright lights could possibly be a nuisance to neighbors. He said the Dark Skies project is designed to focus the light out of the sky and into the park. The topography of the region has played a role in reducing sound and noise.

"The big issue with sound is line of sight," Bar-Tur said. "If you can see a highway, you can hear a highway. That's why topography is very important."

One proposal calls for the amphitheater, which is expected to generate the most sound, to be located in an area of lower elevation. The stage will face away from the park, and a large concrete backing will capture the sound.

There will also be a different approach taken to parking. According to Bar-Tur, a grid system, which will likely be made of plastic, will be laid on a grass surface. The grass will then grow through the grass grids, creating a more environmentally-friendly type of parking.

Up 'Til Dawn celebrates

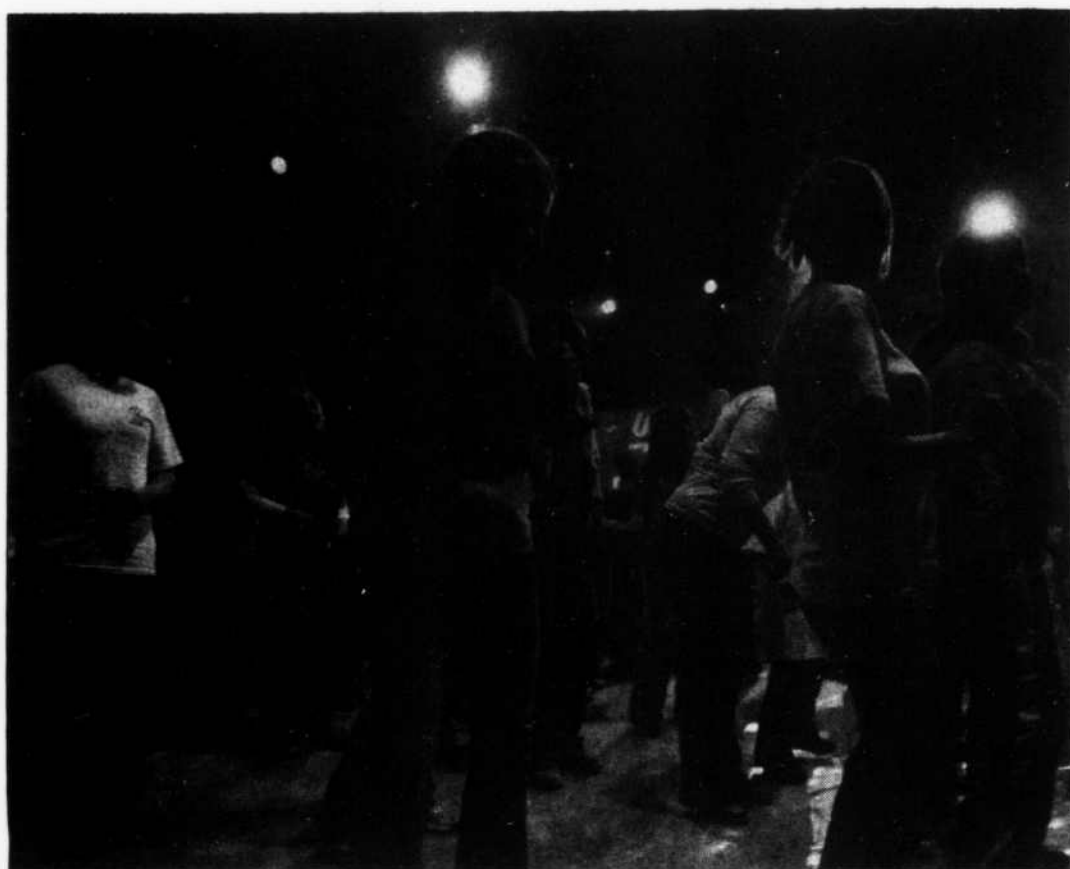


PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOOY- PHOTO EDITOR

Up 'Til Dawn, a charity fundraising event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, celebrates raising over \$80,000. Above is their finale held at the Recreation Center on Saturday.



Just as great food and fine wine complement each other so well, our entire team caters to our guests with *Hospitaliano*! This means 100% guest delight, taking pride in doing it right, valuing everyone as family and friends. And you can be a part of it at our brand new location in Murfreesboro.

We're hiring:

**Servers • Hosts/Hostesses • Bartenders • Line & Production Cooks
To-Go Specialists • Bussers • Dishwashers**

We're also committed to 100% employee satisfaction, and that starts with providing benefits like flexible schedules, comprehensive training, meal discounts, paid vacation, medical/dental insurance, 401(k) Plan as well as management career advancement opportunities.

Please apply in person Monday through Saturday, 9am - 6pm at:

1710 Old Fort Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

www.olivegarden.com/employ

An Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/D/V



When you're home, you're Family.

FACILITY: Building delayed

Continued from page 1

ogy has changed, and what faculty and students can do inside the existing building is limited.

Student enrollment has also grown dramatically since the Davis Science Building and Weiser-Patton were built.

McPhee said that the existing building was designed to accommodate 3,000 students, not the present 23,000 students.

Stephen M. Wright, associate professor of biology, coordinates faculty and acts as a liaison between the departments, building designers, and the Board of Regents.

He emphasized the importance of the building being about the students.

Wright said that they want to provide a place where students can work on projects after class, get a cup of coffee, or just have a comfortable place to rest.

Shower stalls are also being considered for

both male and female restrooms, for students who ride bikes to and from campus.

Wright said the facility will be the most student-centered building in the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Ron Ramsey, Tennessee's lieutenant governor and speaker of the senate, said Friday that if any additional money could be found in the coming year that it would go toward capital projects involving higher education.

MTSU's science building would be first on the list, and it could be paid for through purchasing bonds.

"It's recurring money that makes the payment, but you don't have to have \$100 million in the budget to build a \$100 million building, because it is bonded," Ramsey said. "So if we could find some [money], it would go a long ways."

**Want more from your
news section?
Give us more.**

slstate@mtsu.edu / slnews@mtsu.edu

**CENTURY
21**

**CD'S • RECORDS
TAPES • JEWELRY**
New & Used CD's - Records
125 Lasseter Dr.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
OPEN MON-SAT 11-7



**CELEBRATE
MERCY**
25 YEARS & BEYOND

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER,
LIVES ARE STILL BEING RESTORED.

**CELEBRATE MERCY
CONCERT**
**CELEBRATE MERCY
CONFERENCE**
**CELEBRATE MERCY
MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

April 18
Belmont University
Curb Center

April 19
Belmont University
Curb Center

April 19
Loews Vanderbilt
Hotel

Check out www.mercy25th.com
for ticket information and a full schedule of events!

Mercy Ministries
Lives transformed. Hope restored.

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

Employment

Lifeguard needed: Campus Recreation needs a qualified lifeguard for the Tuesday/Thursday 7:30 - 9 a.m. shift. American Red Cross certification with updates implemented after Dec. 2006 is required. Candidates must be able to pass skills test.

administered on site. Fill out an application at the Campus Recreation office, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday or call 898-2255 for more information.

PT WORK Good pay, flex scheds, sales/svc, no exp nec--we train, all ages 18+, condition apply, 832-8448

Continued from last column

CollegeIncome.com

For Rent

For lease

FOR SALE

Roommates

Female roommate needed. Huge master bedroom and bathtub, located at Campus Crossing, walking distance to campus. Two other roommates that rarely come home. Discounted rate. Call Kay @ 615-785-7502.

Opportunities

#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips to Baha-maPartyCruise, PanamaCity, Acapulco, Cancun and more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get

3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445.

SERVICES

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY - \$650. Julie Lampley Photography offers wedding packages starting at

\$650. Servicing the Greater Nashville Area, contact us at (615) 799-9618 or julie.lampley@gmail.com and see galleries at www.pbase.com/jlampley

Policies

Sidelines will be re-

sponsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may

be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Restaurant employee killed in robbery

Associated Press

Murfreesboro police say a restaurant employee has been killed during a robbery attempt.

The employee at the O'Charley's restau-

rant on Memorial Boulevard was counting money around midnight Sunday when a masked gunman came into the restaurant and demanded cash.

Murfreesboro police spokesman Kyle Evans says after the employee gave the suspect the cash, he opened fire and hit the victim

several times.

Evans says the victim was transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center, then transferred to Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he later died.

Police are still investigating the incident and looking for witnesses to the shooting.

Police suspect teen in Memphis slayings

Commercial Appeal

Memphis Police say the 18-year-old charged with first-degree murder of department veteran Lt. Ed Vidulich is also a suspect in two other killings.

Police say the same gun they believe Dexter Cox used to kill Vidulich was also used in two October murders — that of 76-year-old Herbert Wooten and 45-year-old Gwendolyn Cherry.

At a news conference on Sunday, police director Larry Godwin said police believe Cox gained access to Vidulich's home by telling him he had information about a burglary.

The 51-year-old supervisor of the Memphis police harbor patrol was found shot to death in his Frayser home Monday after his sports utility vehicle was found burning a few blocks away.

Police say the teenager was found with a

handgun that was taken from the officer's home.

Cox was arrested Wednesday near Frayser High School after a school officer heard gunshots and Cox was seen placing something on the ground.

Police say Cox was arrested after he appeared in court on the gun charge Thursday. On Friday, police say Cox was questioned and admitted shooting Vidulich and stealing his vehicle and the gun.

Campus Briefs

Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation will host the Winter Backpacking Fiery Gizzard Trail trip to Tracy City, Tenn. on Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10. Cost is \$25 for students, \$30 for faculty and staff and \$35 for alumni and guests. Space is limited for this trip so reservations in advance are advised.

A Water Works Class is being offered in the Recreation Center. Classes began on Jan. 22 and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. Cost is \$1 per class or \$6 for an eight-session pass.

Water aerobics take place Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. in the Rec. Center. Classes will continue through April 3 with varied classes involving deep and shallow water.

The Rec. Center will have a special needs water exercise class that will continue until Feb. 21. Classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$2 per session or \$10 for a four-week pass. Pre-registration is required for this program.

For more information about Campus Recreation activities visit mtsu.edu/~camprec or call (615) 898-2104.

Dramatic Arts

The Stones River Chamber Players will perform on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building will host a Jazz Artist Series on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. This event will feature Jeff Coffin, two-time Grammy winner, saxophonist and composer. Admission is \$15 for students and free for staff members.

The Women's Invitational Choral Festival will take place all day on Saturday, Feb. 9.

The T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, located in the Wright Music Building, will host Christa Gates junior viola recital on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.

Please e-mail Tim Musselman at tmusselm@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-2493 if questions arise.

'American Gangster' at the KUC Theater

"American Gangster" will be playing in the Keathley University Center theatre Monday, Feb. 4 through Thursday, Feb. 7. Show times will be at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Tickets will be \$2.

June Anderson Women's Center

On Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. Kimberly Freeman from Impact Training will present a personal safety workshop entitled "How Safe Are You?" The event will take place in the James Union Building in Hazelwood Dining Room.

A seminar about how to use technology to manage time will occur on Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. in JUB Dining Room C. Angela Golden will present this event.

For more information, visit mtsu.edu/~jawc or call (615) 898-2193.

Media and Election Lecture

DeWayne Wickham, nationally syndicated columnist, will deliver a lecture on race, the media and presidential politics in the Keathley University Center Theater on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 9:45 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the lecture, please e-mail bkeel@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-5150.

Honors College Creative Artist Seminar

Jeff Coffin, a two-time Grammy award winning musician, will be speaking on Monday, Feb. 11, from 12:40 to 2:05 p.m. in the Honors Amphitheater. This event is free and open to students, faculty and staff.

E-mail Marc J. Barr at mjbarr@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-5118.

Honor Lectures

On Monday, Feb. 4, in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Dr. Mark Anshel will present a lecture on stress and coping in sports from 3 p.m. until 3:50 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Contact Scott Carnicor at (615) 898-2152 for questions.

New Student Organizations

Informal meetings to create new organizations on campus will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at the ATC on the first floor of the library.

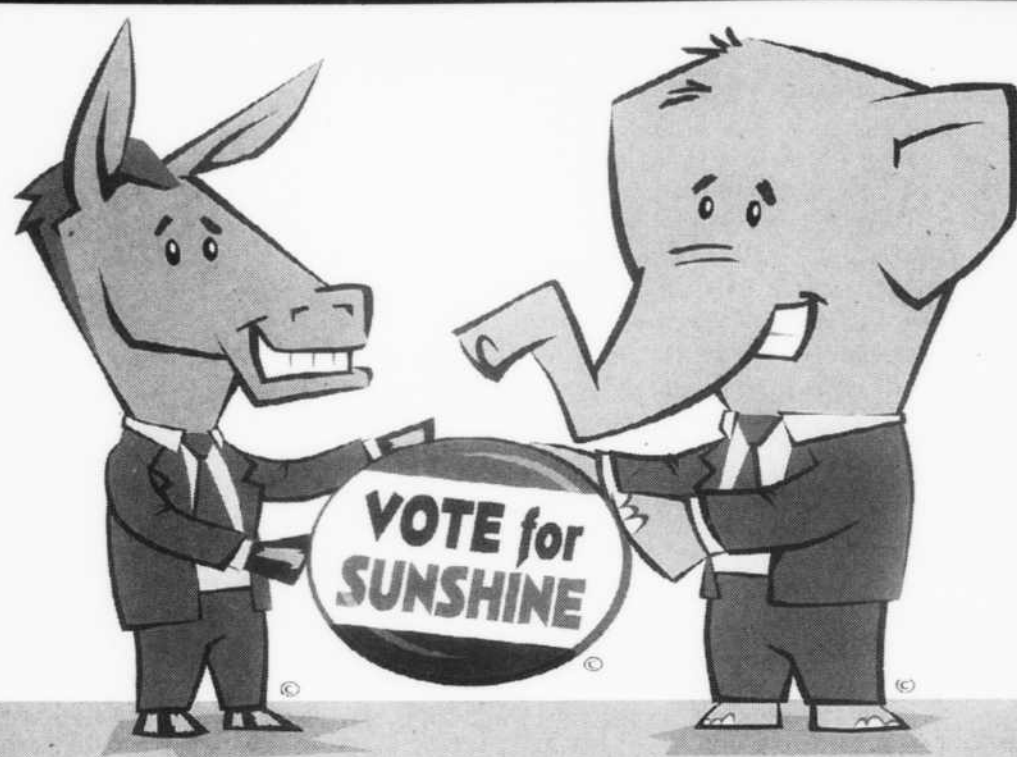
For more information on the meetings, please contact Jenny Crouch at 904-8472 in the Campus Recreational office.

Audition Notice

The Tennessee Renaissance Festival seeks actors of all types and experience levels to portray townsfolk and nobility in its 16th century English village. An open call takes place Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. at Freeman Photography Studio. Some rehearsals begin in March, all cast rehearses weekends in April, with performances four weekends in May, including Memorial Day Monday.

For more information or directions visit ttnrenfest.com/auditions or call 615-395-9950.

Government Access Is For Everyone



At the core of our system of government is the unwavering belief that democracy can succeed only with an informed, participatory electorate — truly a government of, by and for the people.

Sunshine Week engages people in conversations about open government and why it must be nurtured and protected to preserve our rights and liberties.

Reminding candidates that access to information is important to people makes the issue vital not just during election season, but hopefully during the administrations of those elected.

Whether it's a general statement of principle, or a more specific query about something in your community, find out what the people who want to represent you think about your right to know what they're doing.



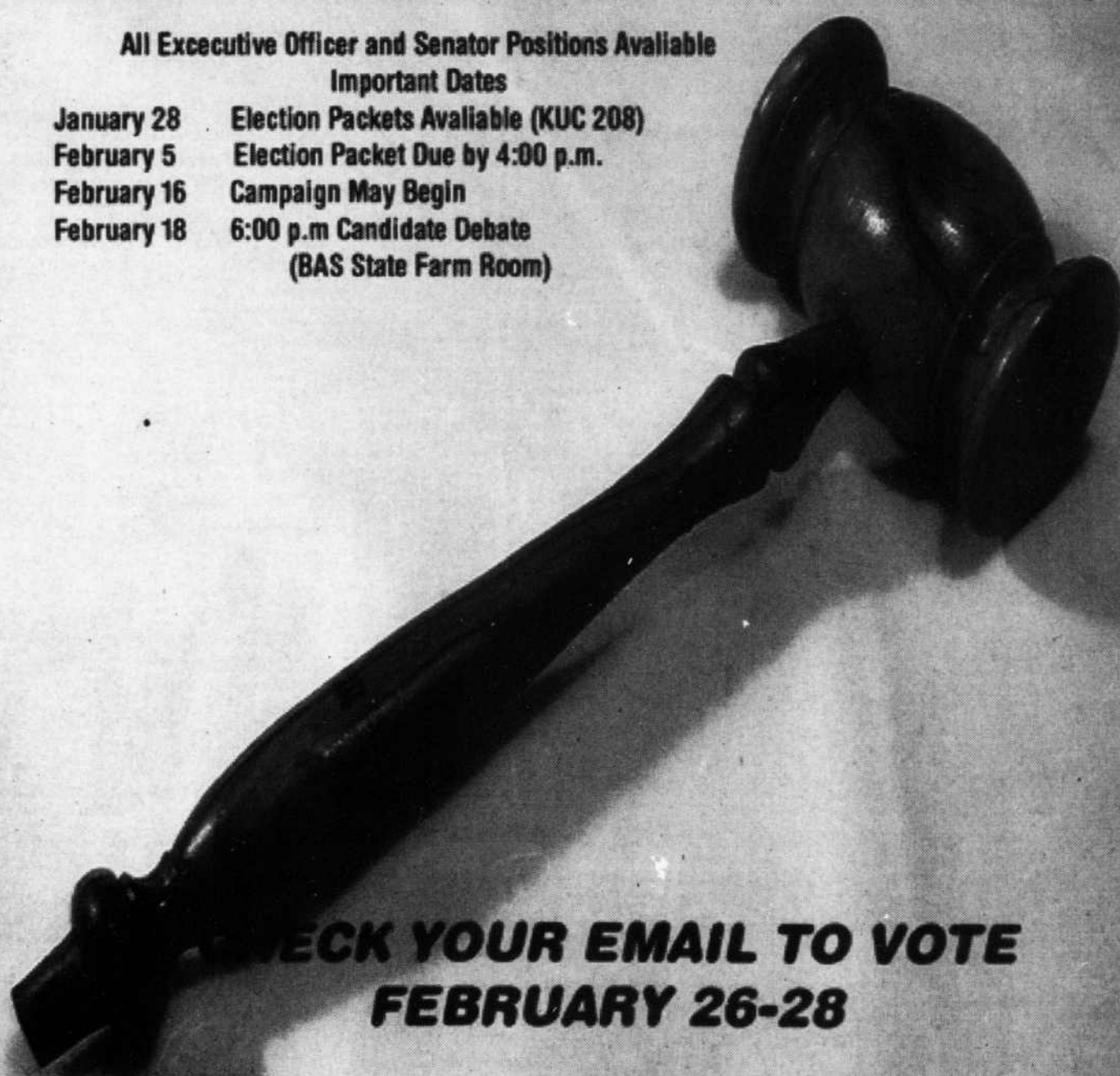
sunshineweek.org

SGA ELECTIONS

All Executive Officer and Senator Positions Available

Important Dates

| | |
|-------------|--|
| January 28 | Election Packets Available (KUC 208) |
| February 5 | Election Packet Due by 4:00 p.m. |
| February 16 | Campaign May Begin |
| February 18 | 6:00 p.m. Candidate Debate (BAS State Farm Room) |



OPINIONS

Letters Policy:

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopino@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

From the Editorial Board:

Spend our student activity fees on more interesting programs

From a \$3 "Student Activity Fee," Student Programming has managed to accrue roughly \$67,000 of our monies for—what?

It is obvious the days of Elvis and Pearl Jam at MTSU have passed. Instead, we have been stuck in recent years with Kanye West and Big Boi. Exciting.

Student Programming spent \$7,000 in the fall, so it is safe to assume they are holding \$60,000 for spring.

According to their Web site, Student Programming will be providing—for our entertainment—a couple of mediocre movies, a speech or two and a man who eats random objects and then regurgitates them.

Props to the last guy, because we've always wanted to see a human eat a light bulb and then throw it back up.

About the only interesting thing to hope for is Sean Carlin, coming in April. And Sean is only interesting because he is the nephew of renowned comedian George Carlin.

So with the impending trill of the spring season, the editorial board has decided to put in our own request of acts we would like to see at MTSU.

10. Slayer
9. Alicia Keys
8. Billy Joel
7. Wu-Tang Clan
6. Between the Buried and Me
5. Will Smith (If the guy is still touring. He might be too famous to rap anymore.)
4. Timbaland
3. New Kids on the Block (Seriously, they are making a comeback. Although they really aren't so "new" anymore.)
2. Hannah Montana
1. Chris Crocker

A side note to Chris Crocker. We only want him if he can bring Britney Spears, so while he screams "Leave Britney Alone!" we can also watch Spears have a mental breakdown on stage.

In fact, it would be even better if Britney brought her sister-Jamie Lynn. Then we could turn the show into a really bad remake of "The Aristocrats."

Then again, a freakshow of that magnitude would definitely cost more than our measly \$60,000. But the chances of selling tickets would be much better than the Big Boi concert turned out.

Faces in the Crowd

What is your opinion about Murfreesboro having a Bible-themed amusement park?



Hubbard



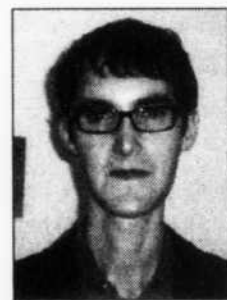
Zolkower

"I think it depends more on motives. If it is being funded by the city government, the people might be opposed to a city council with religiously based motives."

—Joel Hubbard, junior liberal arts

"It's something that might be good for some people who are interested, and for children to learn more about faith."

—Ben Zolkower, freshman music education



Cottle



Akins

"I don't support it at all."

—Adam Cottle, alumni english

"I think it will bring money to the economy and more religious people. Its great for families. It would be a good idea."

—Shannon Akins, graduate nutrition

Influenza hits MT hard; takes toll on health and wallet

Over the past couple of weeks, many MTSU students have been staying home from school. No, they aren't skipping class. They're sick.

This year's batch of winter flu seems to be hitting the campus harder than in past years, sending student after student to the doctor with fevers, congestion, and a general feeling of "blah."

While the flu is bad enough, some students will be feeling the effects of their illness long after their physical symptoms have subsided.

For the uninsured student, a quick trip to the health center on campus is affordable enough. But what happens if your fever spikes in the middle of the night? Or on a weekend?

I found this out on Monday, when I headed to Vanderbilt's emergency room with a high fever. I couldn't wait until the health center opened because, in my delirious state, I had convinced myself I was dying. So, off to the ER I went, knowing full well that it was going to cost me.

When an insured person goes to the hospital, the costs associated with doing so may not even enter his mind. Five dollars for a couple of acetaminophens? Okay. A couple hundred dollars for a saline intravenous drip? Bring it on! For a person without insurance, though, every test and treatment, along with the cost of actually seeing the doctor, comes at a hefty cost—one that may take years to pay.

Health insurance policies are largely regulated by each individual state. Most states offer some sort of government-subsidized insurance program, including Tennessee, but these programs vary greatly from place to place, and budget cuts often affect the number of people the state can insure. On top of that, being accepted for Tennessee's state health program, TennCare, is no easy feat. One often has to endure months worth



Grammar Gal Schools You

By Jessica Laven
Staff Columnist

of paperwork and repeated visits to the human services building in downtown Nashville, usually requiring one to wait from open until close.

MTSU does have an insurance plan available through a private company, but the plan does not make sense for most students. Most of the time, the student must pay for a procedure or prescription out of pocket and then send in paperwork, praying that the insurance company will approve the expenses and cut the student a check. This process usually takes at least two months, inevitably resulting in the insurance company denying the claim for one reason or another.

Making a student pay out of pocket doesn't seem right. Most of us depend on financial aid, and extra money is usually sparse. Anything spent out-of-pocket, even with the understanding that I will get it back later, makes it harder to pay bills in the meantime.

In order for every person to effectively take care of their health, insurance and healthcare policies need to be federally governed. A person in California does not deserve better care than a person in Florida, based simply on where that person chooses

to live. A person who has a chronic illness should not be punished, paying much higher rates because of something beyond their control. College students should be given an option across the board that allows them access to quality, affordable healthcare.

While it's understandable that a person in perfect health may be hesitant to pick up the slack for those who cost health insurance companies more money, the higher costs would be largely temporary. With easier, more affordable access to healthcare, the next generation would be healthier. Preventive care would be more readily available to all, resulting in people taking care of medical problems before they get out of hand—and more expensive.

The biggest bully to take care of, though, would be the pharmaceutical companies. These companies patent their drugs, creating a monopoly that prohibits other companies from making generic versions of their products. Although the Hatch-Waxman Act was born out of this, and President Bush has also addressed it, companies still find loopholes that fund their greed.

Many pharmacies have started offering cheap generic drugs, which will eventually force pharmaceutical companies to lower costs in order to compete with more affordable versions of their drugs. It's a step in the right direction.

These measures, along with a healthy dose of taking care of oneself, would go a long way in easing the financial burden faced by millions of citizens in our country every year. For MTSU students, it would mean not missing classes due to illness, instead saving those absences for warm, spring days.

Jessica Laven is in the graduate education program and can be reached at jcl2w@mtsu.edu.

Rock 'n' Roll has lost sight of its roots, too commercialized

Let there be...rock.

And so it came to pass, that rock 'n' roll was born. We all love it. Where did it come from?

The blues are the root of rock 'n' roll, everybody knows that. A lot of people attribute the origins of blues to the oppression of people of African heritage. But is that the whole story?

Blues did not really coalesce into the form we know today until around the 1920s. But American blacks had endured the oppression for centuries. Interestingly, around the same time blues evolved on the North American continent, expressionism began to take hold in Europe as a result of changes in the human condition due to the influence of technology and industrialized warfare.

Both of these types of music embodied a similar expressive context. However, expressionism turned into an academic experiment that virtually signaled the beginning of the end of the cultural relevance of the Western art music tradition.

Blues, on the other hand, grew out of a unique cross-pollination of European and African folk traditions. Due to the fertile cultural landscape in The New World blues was



Philosophers and Ploughmen

By Benjamin Harris
Staff Writer

poised to make an impact that arguably few at the time could imagine.

Many people know that a producer from Memphis named Sam Phillips broke rock 'n' roll to white audiences by recording Elvis Presley doing a mix of country and blues with a driving beat. Elvis generated a huge following among the youth that began to rebel in ways that shocked the establishment. Was the music to blame? Well, perhaps not entirely. Interestingly, the breakout of rock 'n' roll virtually coincided with the first successful Soviet hydrogen bomb test.

It is difficult for us to imagine today the cultural climate of that time. There was a general apprehension that it was not merely possible, but perhaps likely, that the whole of humanity would at one point or another be wiped out in a matter of minutes. That would be bil-

lions of years of evolution and hundreds of thousands of years of cultural development gone in the span of about a half an hour. Suddenly, nothing the teenagers were being told by their elders made sense. But rock 'n' roll did. Immediately, the Forces of Freedom™, otherwise known as the establishment, attempted to destroy rock 'n' roll. They were to fail.

The next decade arrived and the world was not destroyed. But the threat remained. This spawned a cultural backlash that advocated hyper-pacifism. The music became a linchpin in the efforts to escape the reality this movement saw as moving the human race ever closer to disaster. At this point rock music, with its total freedom ethic, began to assimilate other music styles such as folk, jazz, Eastern, and even art music.

The following decade saw the Cold War threat abate some-

what and the protest movement eventually gave way as people got on with their lives. Rock 'n' roll was still going strong, however. This decade was arguably the "golden age" of rock music. There was lots of experimentation and the quality of musicianship was at an all time high. The musical expression ranged from simple party music, to raging punk, to art rock that could express profound sentiments, important social criticism, to combinations of all the above and everything in between. This was to be short lived, however.

The 1980s ushered in the era of corporate rock and things have gone downhill ever since. Since then, artists with integrity have been struggling to maintain the cultural relevance of the music in the face of corporate hegemony. However, the advent of modern technology may help to turn the tide back as artists and audiences alike are empowered. We'll have to see.

Benjamin Harris is a senior guitar performance major and can be reached at bmh2q@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: (615) 904-8357 Advertising:
(615) 898-2533 Fax: (615) 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Andy Harper*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Features
Sarah Lavery
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Photography
Ryan DeBooy
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Mary Rose Fox*
sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

Sports
Richard Lowe
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production
Amy Jones
sl4ads@mtsu.edu

Campus News
Christin Pepple*
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
Tiffany Gibson
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

Comm. News
Dan Potter*
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features
Katey Coil
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Jessica Laven*
slopino@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports
Chris Martin
slsports@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

*denotes member of editorial board

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

From the Student Government:



SGA Update

By Brandon Reedy
Guest Columnist

It is that time of year again. The yard signs will be everywhere, students will be discussing issues important to you, and people will be debating about who is better. That's right, it's SGA elections. It's time for you to determine what is most important to your college career and determine who will most effectively represent your views.

Interested in running? The Executive positions to be contested are the following: President, Executive Vice President/Speaker of the Senate, Vice President for Administrative and Public Affairs, and Election Commissioner. The Senate seats will be broken down by colleges, undeclared students, and five at-large seats. For every 750 students, there will be one seat allotted to that particular college. The rules and regulations regarding qualifications and campaigning can be found in the SGA Constitution and SGA Electoral Act, which can both be accessed on the SGA Website.

As you may have seen in the fall, we have adopted a new style of voting. Since RaiderNet did not support a voting system, we were forced to contract-out a voting system. You will be receiving emails with instructions on how to vote with a link to where you may cast your votes. This website has protected your email from outside spam, so any spam you may receive will not be linked to this system.

Election packets are available now. These packets must be turned into the SGA office no later than Feb. 5 at 4:00 p.m. Campaigning will start on Feb. 16. Debates among the Executive positions will be in the State Farm Room of the BAS on Feb. 18 at 6:00 p.m. Elections will be February 26 through 28.

For more information, come by the SGA office (KUC 208) or visit our Website at www.mtsu.edu/~sga. Please feel free to contact us with regards to any questions you may have concerning the upcoming elections.

Letter to the Editor

'90s more entertaining than this decade? Not even close.

In response to your "90s far more influential than current decade for entertainment" [Jan. 28], I just want to say that I think you're wrong.

As much as I like looking back at those Nickelodeon gems (and feel that kids today don't know what they missed), I do not think the '90s were superior to today's entertainment options. I saw Titanic multiple times, but it didn't leave near the impression on me as a film such as 2005's Crash did.

Despite the remakes and comic flicks, the 2000s have been rich with great films like "Memento," "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "Little Miss Sunshine." As far as music in films, how about Glen Hansard & Marketa Irglova in "Once?" I mentioned Grunge, but failed to bring up the boy band craze...perhaps on purpose?

Since 2000, hip hop music has blossomed in ways that the '90s was only hinting at. Today's most influential artists are writing their own songs and infusing musical styles that don't necessarily fit under one label.

There's also the excitement of being able to discover bands in ways that were impossible in the '90s. Yes there was Napster, the advent of "American Idol" and the death of radio—but I like to think that blemishes like these provide new opportunities and force exciting new ideas and changes, such as the mp3 player and satellite radio, for instance.

Often, one looks back at a certain time in their life and associates it with the popular culture around them, defining that period of time. This is understandable, and everyone has different tastes. However, I still believe that we're offered more entertainment than ever before today.

Quantity isn't quality, but when there's more to choose from and more people getting involved (Ricky Gervais, Diablo Cody... YouTube.com), it's not too terribly hard to find something good to entertain and influence us. I can not, and I will not comment on fashion.

In a political sense, we didn't get off to the greatest start. But again, challenges bring opportunities. Here's hoping that Barack Obama will be leading us into the next decade.

So, after I check my Facebook, I think I'll go watch my "Arrested Development" DVD—or listen to the new Cat Power on vinyl—and thank the Lord that I don't have class on Mondays.

Trace MacAlister, Murfreesboro, Tenn. resident



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller



"Last-Ditch Effort"

kroes@ide-online.com

John Kroes

No new science building—for now



Hurtt Pride

By Matthew Hurtt
Guest Columnist

Better luck next year, MTSU! Governor Bredesen announced that Tennessee's financial condition would not support the necessary capital projects for institutions of higher learning during his State of the State Address. For 10 years, the proposed science building has crawled slowly up the list of capital improvements, compiled by the Tennessee Board of Regents, the University of Tennessee, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Finally, it is the No. 1 priority on the list.

There is some good news. A student delegation, comprised of SGA President Chassen Haynes, SGA Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs Ashley DeSabetino, and myself, began discussing funding issues with members of the General Assembly and THEC early this semester. I personally believe this dialogue will continue for years to come as MTSU students get more involved in the legislative process.

Developing a good working relationship with state government will demonstrate MTSU's willingness to learn and contribute ideas and opinions. The legislative delegation—Senators Bill Ketron and Jim Tracy, and Representatives John Hood, Donna Rowland, Kent Coleman and Curt Cobb—is very excited about receiving student input. They are enthusiastic about the opportunities that will emerge as MTSU students become more involved in making im-

portant decisions.

The process is complex. TBR and UT come together to decide which capital projects are important. They prioritize these projects and submit them to THEC, which compiles a complete list and makes suggestions. Presently, the proposed science building could cost between \$115 million and \$140 million, according to recent figures.

Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey recently stated that the General Assembly appropriates about ten percent of the total amount of the building project, with the remaining 90 percent funded by bonds. \$11.5 million is a significantly easier number for legislators to absorb.

While we are not currently experiencing a recession, the economy has slowed down somewhat, and that can be attributed to the problems associated with the housing industry, and the seemingly haphazard subprime lending by major mortgage companies. The uncontrollable economic cycle will improve in Tennessee, and funds will eventually be appropriated for the new science building. We would hope sooner rather than later because construction costs increase every year.

Constructing the science building should not only be a priority of MTSU administration and state officials, but it should also be a top priority for every student. Funding for MTSU would certainly increase as the opportunity for more students and different degree programs develop. Every MTSU student should have a personal interest in seeing MTSU succeed and prosper.

"Blue Raiders ride on to vic-t-ry, never failing in the fight," are the words of the Fight Song, and I assure you that we will not fail.

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at matt.hurtt@gmail.com.

World weighs in on candidates

By William J. Kole
Associated Press

Germans are gaga over Barack Obama. He's got Japan pretty jazzed, too, along with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Russia's leaders, not so much: They prefer a Republican—as long as it's not Kremlin critic John McCain.

And Mexico's president? He doesn't have much use for any of them.

America's extraordinary presidential campaign has captivated politicians and ordinary people around the globe. With so much at stake in the race for the White House, the world is watching with an intensity that hasn't been seen since the Clinton era began in 1992.

After eight years of President Bush, the latest mantra in U.S. politics—"transformational change"—is resonating across the rest of a planet desperate for a fresh start.

"They feel there's a real chance to work with the U.S.," said Julianne Smith, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "America's image in the world is really on the line."

Non-Americans, she said, are looking for someone who can "restore faith in the United States."

Obama, perhaps not surprisingly, is generating most of the buzz abroad.

"Der schwarze Kennedy,"

some German admirers are calling him: "The black JFK."

"He is young, charming and sexy!" the mass-circulation newspaper Bild gushed. "Obama is now the ideal projection screen for hopes and expectations in Europe" and the U.S. alike, said Christian Hacke, a professor at the University of Bonn.

"I like him. I like his ideas, his attitude, his appearance. I prefer him to Hillary Clinton, who is more artificial," said Eva Berto, a Rome doctor who thinks Obama would bring a new approach to the crisis in Iraq and the nuclear standoff with Iran.

Japanese media are closely tracking both Obama and the woman they refer to simply as "Hillary," and focusing on the possibility that either could make history.

"The idea since the country's founding—'You can't become president if you're not a white man'—has already been destroyed," the Mainichi newspaper said in an editorial.

But in Europe, where some see Obama as untested, support for Clinton is widespread, and nostalgia for her husband's charisma runs deep. When scandals rocked the Clinton White House, most Europeans responded with a Gallic shrug.

"Nobody in Europe ever took Bill Clinton's problems in office seriously," said Patrick Dunleavy, a political scientist at the London School of Economics. "Nobody could ever under-

stand why Americans were so upset. Bill Clinton was always a fantastic presence in Europe."

The Republican presidential hopefuls, by contrast, are not highly regarded in Europe: Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee are seen as too religious, and the 71-year-old McCain as too old.

To Britons, history's most popular postwar presidents were Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton because of their perceived levelheadedness and intelligence, said Dunleavy. The most despised? President Bush and Ronald Reagan "because they were seen as erratic and unpredictable," he said.

Yet Democrats don't rule the entire world of public opinion. Saad al-Hadithi, a political analyst in Baghdad, contends the Republican candidates are more committed to Iraq and have a better approach.

"They show more support to the political progress and to combating terrorist groups in Iraq," he said. "The Democrats, especially Hillary Clinton, are calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces, but they are not offering an alternative. Such a withdrawal while the Iraqi security forces are still weak will lead to disastrous results."

Russia's leaders also consider Republicans more pragmatic, said Nikolai Petrov, an analyst with the Carnegie Moscow Center.

But the Kremlin, Petrov said, would likely have "serious concerns" if McCain wins the Re-

publican nomination because of the Arizona senator's harsh and persistent criticism of Vladimir Putin's autocratic government.

Others in Russia are drawn to the lively U.S. campaign if only because it's such a sharp contrast to Moscow's tightly choreographed March 2 presidential election—a contest that Putin's favored successor, Dmitry Medvedev, is seen as certain to win.

Africans naturally gravitate toward Obama, whose father was from Kenya.

Israelis, though, seem to prefer Hillary Clinton—even though Obama has voiced support for key Israeli demands in peace talks with the Palestinians—because of her experience and the backing Bill Clinton gave to the Jewish state during his two terms as president.

Amid the raging debate over immigration, Mexicans arguably have more at stake in the U.S. election than any other nation. But President Felipe Calderon doesn't think very highly of any of the candidates.

"The only theme," he declared in December, "is to compete to see who can be the most swaggering, macho and anti-Mexican."

In the post-Bush era, the bottom line is blunt and simple, Dunleavy said.

"People all around the world are pretty worried," he said. "They want a president who will restore a kind of U.S. legitimacy in the world."

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 5 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 2 | 4 | | | 5 | 1 | |
| | | | 7 | 5 | 4 | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | |
| 3 | 6 | | | | | | 7 2 |
| | | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | |
| | | | 3 | 4 | 9 | | |
| | 3 | 8 | | | | 7 | 2 |
| 4 | | | | | | | 3 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 9 |

Enjoy the solution.

To your right.

Turn the paper around.

FEATURES

Do you plan to vote on Super Tuesday?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.
- c) I've already voted.

Go to mtsusidelines.com to answer

Bend and stretch

Pilates gets students into shape just in time for Spring Break

By Emily Sterrie
Staff Writer

So the new semester is finally under way, the Christmas cookies are all long-gone and here won't be another home-cooked meal until at least Easter. Yes, spring is finally on its way, and along with spring comes, duh, Spring Break.

If you're like a lot of students, this sudden realization can leave you positively chilled with a mixture of tense anticipation and nervous anxiety. On the one hand, you could already use a vacation, but on the other hand, you've had one-too-many helpings of mom's holiday ham. Spring Break will be here so soon it's frightening, but before scrambling for the diet pills, consider this no-strings-attached body makeover: it's called Pilates.

The Pilates movement has been growing rapidly over the last several years, thanks partially to a string of celebrity endorsements, but it has really become popular because it works, plain and simple. Angela Armstrong is the Pilates instructor at MTSU with four years of certified experience, and she says she couldn't be happier about the rise of the Pilates movement, which she has witnessed first-hand in the overwhelming growth of her classes.

"Pilates is such an effective tool, an effective workout, that word of mouth has really made it popular," Armstrong said.

With so many diet schemes and workout fads being marketed these days, Armstrong thinks people are naturally skeptical on the effectiveness of these techniques. "People are looking for things that have that reputation for being effective, and Pilates has that reputation."

Now what is Pilates, exactly? Essentially, it's a system that practices a series of floor exercises as well as spring-driven machines to increase strength, flexibility, stamina, and concentration, all adding up to create a body that's strong, healthy, and toned and a mind that's calm, cool, and collected. Armstrong explains that Pilates is a perfect balance of strengthening and conditioning the body.

"Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi—they all balance the body. When you work one muscle, you work the opposing, so you create strength in the body effectively," she said.

The Pilates method was originally developed by German inventor Joseph H. Pilates in the early 1900s. With his system, Pilates focused on training the mind and body to work together toward the goal of overall fitness.

"It is a complicated technique in that you have to have a lot of knowledge about the body, anatomy, how the mind works, how the body works," Armstrong said. "Pilates did years of study on

kinesiology, psychology, and anatomy before he ever developed his technique completely."

Brian Lane, a senior finance major at MTSU, began doing Pilates for the first time this semester in Armstrong's class. Lane, who is one of only two guys in a class of about 25 students, says he appreciates the way the Pilates technique utilizes strength in both body and mind, and it has made him much more in tune to his body.

"I've definitely become more aware of my posture and stance, and also the way I'm breathing," he said.

Likewise, Armstrong explains that by practicing the Pilates technique, "mentally and physically, you have a sharper mind, a more powerful breath, and more awareness of your body in general."

On being one of the only guys in his class, Lane says he expected it, but he is confident that anyone can do Pilates.

"I think guys should definitely be more open to try it," he said.

Armstrong agrees:

"I think it's probably pretty tough to convince a guy to do Pilates. I would just tell them the facts. Pilates is designed to increase strength, flexibility, stamina, and endurance. It works the body completely and effectively. It's the perfect mind/body connection."

Armstrong said that she always sees many more females than males in her classes, which she ties to body image issues and the pressures that women have to deal with to look good. However, she says that most male athletes do recognize the power and benefits of Pilates because they are in tune with their bodies and the important philosophies that Pilates is based on, including breath, concentration, control, and precision. Armstrong is hoping—and predicting—that Pilates is soon going to catch on with more men, simply because of its undeniable benefits.

"Pilates is the most effective workout for the time that you put into it." Enough said.

Pilates is an exercise, yes, in that it is a physical training regimen, but it is more than that: Pilates is also an art form, similar to martial arts, yoga, or dance, in that it can be practiced and perfected. Pilates is a physical science, a technique so precise and concentrated that you can expect to see certain results and transform your body completely.

Maggie Dickenson, a junior media design major at MTSU who has taken Pilates for the last two semesters, says when she first started doing Pilates, she did not expect it to be as much of a workout as it turned out to be.

"I didn't think that I would break a sweat, but I definitely did," she said. "You don't feel like you're working every muscle in your body, but you are."

Dickenson said she received a lot of fulfillment

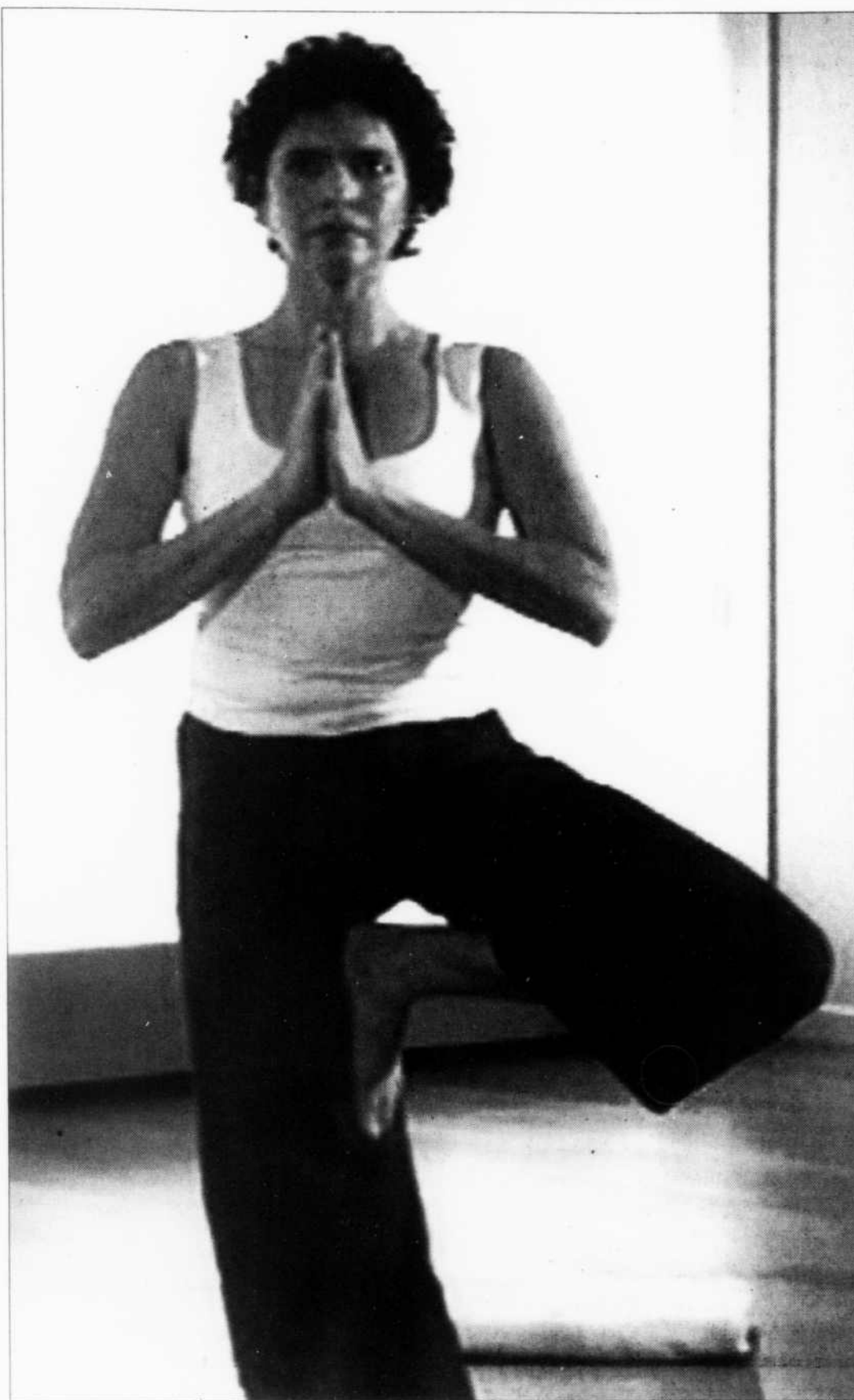


PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGUEFILE.COM

Invented by Joseph H. Pilates, the exercise regimen helps with strength and flexibility.

from taking Pilates, and would recommend it to anyone.

"There were people in my class that were all shapes and sizes," she said. "One girl was even pregnant, and she had no problem doing the movements. Anyone can do Pilates."

And Armstrong agrees that Pilates is "absolutely right for any age, body type, or level of fitness."

So now you know what Pilates is and that you'll be able to do it, but is Pilates powerful enough to shake those holiday hams from your backside in time for Spring Break? Yes, says Armstrong, if you stick to a Pilates regimen from now to then.

Her prescription?

"If you dedicate 15 to 30 minutes a day doing Pilates, even every other day, you'll notice a difference very quickly," she said.

So that's all it takes. You'll be beach-ready in no time if you subscribe to this simple yet complex, easy yet effective exercise method.

Joseph Pilates broke it down perfectly when he said, "If you do the Pilates technique 10 times, you'll feel a difference. If you do it 20 times, you'll see a difference. And if you do the Pilates technique thirty times, you'll have a whole new body."

Who can argue with that? See you at the pool!

Nearly naked musical makes for colorful comedy

By Rachel Nutt
Contributing Writer

Purple, glittering curtains hung from the ceiling, the studio theatre of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building was packed full of people, and it was Jan. 31, opening night of *Underwear the Musical*.

The play, written by Brandon Gwinn, a current MTSU student, and Heidi Ervin, 2006 alumna, was like no other I've seen. I tend to base a play's success on its ability to make me think. When a production is taken in a new direction or the plot is simply thought-provoking, I am generally not disappointed. But what, I asked myself, could someone like me get out of a self-professed "irreverent" play called *Underwear the Musical*? And that was the first remarkable thing about it.

Underwear the Musical is being evaluated at the Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards Program for both the Musical Theatre Award and the Mark Twain Award for comic playwriting nationally.

The story follows Piper Smallton, played by Alli Scott, as she left her communal, mock 1950s lifestyle behind and ends up getting a job as an assistant at a revolutionary, nontraditional modeling corporation. Piper then meets and falls for Andi, a good-looking if uneducated fashion icon played by Matthew Frazier-Smith, and becomes friends with an aging but once it-girl Dylan Dior, played by Brandye Kemp.

This is no ordinary modeling agency, though. It is the groundbreaking, line-crossing business known as *Patty's Panties*. Throughout the play the models were all scantily clad, but what costumes did exist involve sequins, spandex, sparkles and the like. Jon Bumpus, who played the colorful role of a homoerotic male model called Beam, says audiences of any future productions "can expect to be blown away by some fantastic characters and wonderful musical numbers while being sucked into some other-worldly, neon-colored futuristic place."

Maybe the idea of writing such an outrageous play seems easy,



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNDERWEARETHMUSICAL.COM

The cast of *Underwear the Musical* provides scantily clad comedy.

but it took Gwinn and Ervin years to perfect. Playwriting is often much more involved than say, writing a novel. The playwright has to consider space, budget and other complications when writing. Unlike a novel, most of the story must be portrayed through dialogue. The process is very time consuming.

Alli Scott calls the play a "clever, yet ridiculous-in a good way-piece of work." Although she was been acting at MTSU for three years, she said one of the most difficult aspects of acting in this play was simply to keep a straight face. For an experienced actor, one might think this wouldn't be a challenge, but, as she says, Gwinn and Ervin managed to write a "fabulously funny script."

As the story continues, we are introduced to Patricia Pezon, the

top executive at *Patty's Panties*. Played by Bethany Stollar, this was one of the most memorable characters. Stollar's character is a heavyset, overbearing woman donning kooky ensembles, including a cape, a crown, colorful tights and pink hair.

Patricia hadn't had a successful past with boys, which is what leads her to put a special chip in her new line of men's underwear that will allow her to control all males. This product, called the Erectric 3000, was one of many risqué but witty phrases that could be heard mentioned throughout the play.

Piper is then confronted with the problem of helping save the models from Patricia's evil plot.

From the profanity and innuendo, to the girls in bras and boys in briefs, this play might not be ideal for children or younger teenagers.

"Even the humorless members of the audience can appreciate the models and what they're wearing—or lack thereof!" Bumpus said.

That is one thing that can't be argued about this play—there is always plenty to look at. And with a band right offstage to accompany the songs, the whole performance was very lively.

With songs like "Usin' My Head," "Fashion's Better Left on the Floor," and "Patricia's Lament," in which the line "Fat girls need lovin' too" is repeated, it was impossible to become bored. And, although it's not one of the main things on one's mind when watching, the dances were well choreographed and the show starred many great singers.

After watching the play, my assumptions were both confirmed and shattered. Yes, *Underwear the Musical* is an outlandish, quite sexually-oriented comedy, but while there may be plenty of movies with this theme, it stands on its own as a play here at MTSU. I have yet to see many racy, humorous movies that break into song and dance. I left the performance, perhaps not questioning life and art, but with a new appreciation for this type of comedy. The fact that even the parents of the actors were laughing heartily proved that Ervin and Gwinn accomplished something very difficult—writing a successful comedy.

Let Us Entertain You

The Student Programming committee provides a variety of events for the student body.

By Michael Stone
Staff Writer

Between the stress and pressures surrounding class work and studying, sometimes it can be nice to relax and be entertained or take place in non-class-related activities, which is where Student Programming comes in.

Student Programming, the student organization responsible for bringing programs and events to MTSU, was given \$67,000 for the current school year. Of that money, only a small portion went towards the programs and events that were presented during the fall semester, leaving the majority of the money to be spent during the spring semester.

"We only spent about \$7,000 of the money during the fall semester," says Jennifer Fleshman, variety chair of student programming. "Besides what we already have scheduled, we are looking into getting a fairly popular act in this semester."

The organization gets its funding from the \$3 student-activity-

fee portion of tuition.

"This is not enough to get the headliner acts that students really want to see come to MTSU, like Dave Matthews," said Jeremy Davis, films chair of student programming. "The only way we could get these types of acts to come would be if the student activity fee were raised. Even as little as \$2 would make a huge difference."

Headliner acts that generate high attendance have performed at MTSU in years past, including Elvis, Elton John, Bill Cosby, Chicago, The Beach Boys, Steve Miller Band, Pearl Jam and Phish.

Some students disagree with the choice of acts that have been brought to MTSU in more recent years.

"I know we had Big Boi here once a few semesters ago. I think money should have been spent more wisely," says Tim Pickering, senior history major.

Students who disagree with the choice of programs and events that are brought to MTSU are encouraged by Student Programming to get more involved.

"We're always looking for students to get involved in Student Programming. After all, it is their money," says Greg Feiling, coordinator for Student Programming. "There are no fees to join. The

only thing required is an interest in entertainment."

Students who have opinions on what they would like to see come to MTSU but do not wish to join the organization may still submit ideas.

"We are always taking suggestions," says Fleshman. "Even non-members are welcome to give us ideas, either by visiting our Web site, or coming in and talking to us personally in our office."

Student Programming has already offered a wide variety of entertainment thus far this semester including magician Norman Ng, the band Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, a documentary of the band's performances of the same name, and the movie "Across The Universe."

The entertainment already set for the remainder of the spring semester includes a variety of things. Everything, except for most films, is free.

Every Monday through Thursday during the semester, a film is shown in the KUC theatre at both 7 and 10 p.m. The films for February include "American Gangster," "August Rush," "The Darjeeling Limited," "Boyz n The Hood," which will be a free showing only on Feb. 22, and "Enchanted." Films are only \$2 to see.

Upcoming Events

★ Feb. 7, Roger Newman will speak about civil liberties, surveillance and terrorism at 7 p.m. in the State Farm room.

★ Feb. 8, the movie "Crossing Arizona" will be shown in the KUC theatre at 7 p.m. It will be followed by a lecture from co-director and co-producer of the movie, Dan DeVivo.

★ March 21, a comedy show starring only MTSU students will take place in the KUC Theatre at 7 p.m. The program will be similar to NBC's "Last Comic Standing," and any student wishing to participate should register at Student Programming's office.

★ April 7 through 11, the 8th annual MTSU student film festival will be held. Entries for participants are due March 14.

★ Student Programming is located in KUC 308 and the Web site for the organization is www.mtsu.edu/~events.

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2008 / SPRING 2009

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2008/Spring 2009 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2008/2009 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008 at 4:00 PM**.

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$18 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

**Summer '08 Housing Applications are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**

For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

AM
B
A
S
S
A
D
O
R
'08
'09

The
Middle Tennessee State University
National Alumni Association
announces ...



We are now accepting applications for our newest group of Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.

Applications are available at the MTSU Alumni House and at the KUC information desk.

The deadline to apply is February 29, 2008.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Please call 898-2923 or visit mtalumni.com for details.

SPORTS

MBB at Arkansas State Tonight 7:05 WGNS 1450-AM
WBB vs. Arkansas-Little Rock Wed. 7 p.m. 98.5 WMOT

Super Bowl coverage? Good riddance



Outside the pocket

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

It may be blasphemous to say so, but I cannot express how glad I am that the Super Bowl is over.

Don't get me wrong, I watch the NFL every Sunday and have an almost insatiable appetite for football, but I feel as though I'm going to vomit from having to digest the glut of Super Bowl coverage I have been force fed for the past two weeks.

Every time I logged on to my favorite sports news, I was assaulted by pictures of Tom Brady, Randy Moss, Plaxico Burress or Eli Manning that took up nearly a quarter of the entire Web page. The saturation of coverage even pushes good stories off the front page.

For instance, the Los Angeles Lakers picked up all-star forward Pau Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies without giving up any significant parts. In the normal course of events, that story would have been front page material and all the analysts would have been throwing in their 2 cents on how this is the move that will keep Kobe Bryant in LA and that it will turn the Lakers into a serious title contender.

Instead, it was given an embarrassing lack of coverage in between reports of the Patriots still being undefeated and the Giants great three-game winning streak.

The only newsworthy items that could come out of the weeks leading up to the big game would be if someone got injured or some other story that might keep a player from playing, but instead we are handed a full platter full of feel-good stories. The Giants made an unlikely run to get to the championship game and the Patriots are seeking to become the only team aside from the 1972 Miami Dolphins to go undefeated in a season. But haven't we known all of this for a long time?

I understand that the Super Bowl is the largest sporting event of the year, but two weeks of rehashing the same stories and pretending they are important makes me not even want to watch ESPN.

Really, I wouldn't be surprised if you didn't know that the Lakers picked up Gasol, the Mets traded Johan Santana, Kansas' men's basketball team lost its first game of the season or that former WWE superstar Brock Lesnar fought in the UFC this past weekend.

Now, the game itself is definitely something to look forward to, and I honestly was excited when watching the game, but there are things going on in sports that aren't related to football.

Another reason to look forward to the resolution of the NFL season is that it signals that March Madness is almost upon us. NCAA basketball's tournament season is, for my money,



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Despite Brandi Brown's injury and starting guard Johnna Abney's leave of absence, MT has compiled a 14-8 record with a 9-2 conference record.

Lady Raiders move on with adversity

Injury to Brandi Brown, conference win streak ending, and Johnna Abney taking leave of absence makes remaining ladies on team "band" together for the remainder of season

By Richard Lowe

Sports Editor

It seems at times that adversity and sports go together like peanut butter and jelly. Behind every successful team are obstacles that delay that championship place. If adversity is the key behind these championship teams, then the Middle Tennessee State Lady Raiders are working on their storybook as we speak.

In the span of three weeks, sophomore Brandi Brown broke a bone in her hand, their 26-game conference win streak was snapped by Western Kentucky, and junior Johnna Abney took an indefinite leave of absence. According to Khadija Head, assistant coach for MT's women's basketball team, Coach Rick Insell kept his team alert.

"Coach Insell always kept us focused as far as keeping it together as a team," Head said. "He always says that God will put some mountains in your way in order for you to get to some great things so it was just another obstacle in our way."

When Brown broke her hand, the team was preparing to take on Western Kentucky is the first of their annual two-part rivalry. Losing Brown ended up being huge, being that Insell's Lady Raiders have been outsized in almost every game they have played in this year.

"I don't think Brandi had ever been hurt [until her recent hand injury] and it had been tough on her," Insell said.

"She is such a competitor. She is a very important piece of the puzzle for the basketball program."

"I thought Brandi was trying to lead us on and off the court."

She was out for a month but made her return Thursday in an away contest against Louisiana-Lafayette, an 85-66 victory for MT.

The loss of Abney brought the spirits down around the locker room, as Coach Insell explains. "I guess it would be much like if someone had passes away," Insell said. "I don't think they were in shock but everyone was quiet. I don't know if they were hurt but they were kind of stoic."

"Amongst the team it was talked about that day," Head said. "Johnna and her parents came in and talked with the coaching staff and she let us know she was leaving. We were sad to lose Johnna but if she wasn't going to be happy here then we can't force anyone to stay here."

With the team feeling down, Coach Insell sat down with them during one of their practices to try consoling them. "Going through practice, we sat down and talked and said I hated it as much as everyone there because Johnna was one of our girls," Insell said. "But we have to keep moving because we have a game at Troy."

That game against Troy ended being an 87-53 victory, their first since beating Florida Atlantic 79-63 a week earlier.

"Troy was a big win and the team was excited," Insell said.

"On the way home, you could tell there was a change in their moods and they were getting back to normal. Then the next day you could see that stoic attitude creeping back into them."

According to the coaches, they had no time to dwell on the loss of their teammate. With school and practice taking up majority of their days, not much thought could be given to the situation.

"As bad as we hated losing Johnna, that may have been a pivotal point in our season," Head said.

When Brandi went down and Johnna left, we found out about the leadership on this team. We had some young ladies that stepped up.

Since the loss of Abney, the coaching staff has noticed a team on the court that seems to be focused on the tasks at hand.

"It's like they are a band of sisters," Insell said. "Our practices were more focused, more intense. There was more communication. It might have been a wake up call."

Since the Troy game, the Lady Raiders are riding a five game win streak with seven games until the start of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in Mobile, Ala. Coach Insell seems confident in his the way his squad is performing.

"I'm proud of the way they have handled everything," Insell said. "I think we are on track to make some noise in the last part of the season."

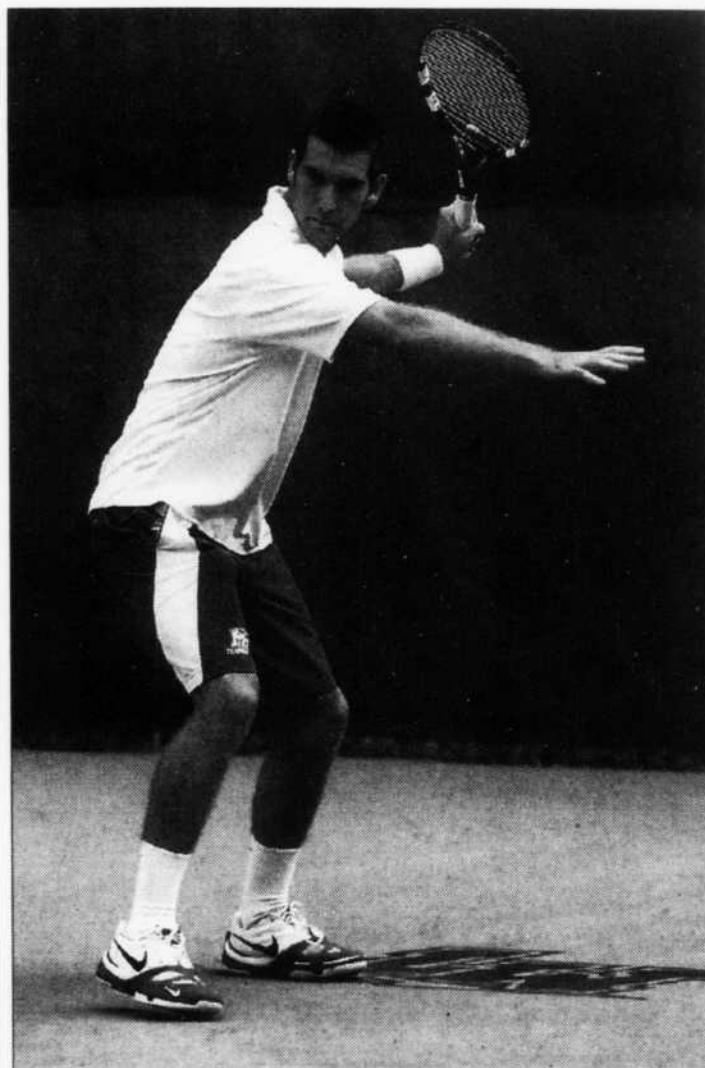


PHOTO PROVIDED BY MT MEDIA RELATIONS

Richard Cowden (pictured above) and Joao Paoliello won their match 8-4 over Adam Altepetter and Pierre Dumas.

Men's tennis takes down Gophers 6-1

By Jessica Stauffacher

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee continued its momentum from Saturday's win into Sunday's match taking a 6-1 win over No. 40 Minnesota.

Middle Tennessee improves to 4-2 on the season with wins over two nationally ranked teams. Minnesota falls to 0-2 on the season after Sunday's loss and a loss to Denver on Friday.

To begin the match, Middle Tennessee won the doubles point 2-1 taking a 1-0 lead in the match. Sophomore Joao Paoliello and freshman Richard Cowden won the first match of the day 8-4 over Adam Altepetter and Pierre Dumas. Then junior Morgan Richard and freshman John Peers defeated Raoul Schwark and Chi-Lang Pham 9-8 (7-2) in No. 1 singles to clinch the point.

Sophomore Marc Rocafort and freshman Chris Nowak played a close match with Minnesota's Dino Bilankov and Derek Peterson but fell 9-7.

Minnesota tied the match 1-1 as Bilankov defeated Richard 6-2, 6-1 with the beginning of singles play but the Blue Raiders did not let it affect them.

Rocafort and Nowak posted wins at the No. 1 and No. 5 positions respectively giving Middle Tennessee a 3-1 advantage in the match. Rocafort won his match with No. 46 Schwark 6-2, 6-4 while Nowak topped Altepetter 7-5, 6-2.

Cowden avoided a third set by defeating Pham in a tie-breaker 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) to clinch the match for the Blue Raiders. Then Paoliello won his match with Peterson in three sets 6-2, 3-6, 6-0 extending the lead 5-1.

"I am very proud of the way the guys competed this weekend. It is nice to see wins across the board and not just the same guys winning," head coach David McNamara said. "I think this will give us confidence going into next weekend."

Peers rounded out play in the match with his three-set win over Dumas 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Middle Tennessee will be back in action Feb. 9 and 10 as it plays host to New Mexico and East Tennessee at the Racquet Club. The Blue Raiders will play No. 54 New Mexico on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.

Then on Sunday, Feb. 10 Middle Tennessee will face No. 49 East Tennessee at 2 p.m. Admission to matches at the Racquet Club are free.

AS AN AMERICAN

YOU CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT.

FULFILL A COMMITMENT.

BREAK A COMMITMENT.

THERE ARE BIG COMMITMENTS.

SMALL COMMITMENTS.

COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER

WANTED TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOU CAN EITHER FEAR COMMITMENT

OR EMBRACE IT.

AS AN AMERICAN AND
A MARINE CORPS OFFICER

YOUR COMMITMENT WILL IMPACT

THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION

FEW CAN BE MARINES.
EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM.
CAN YOU?

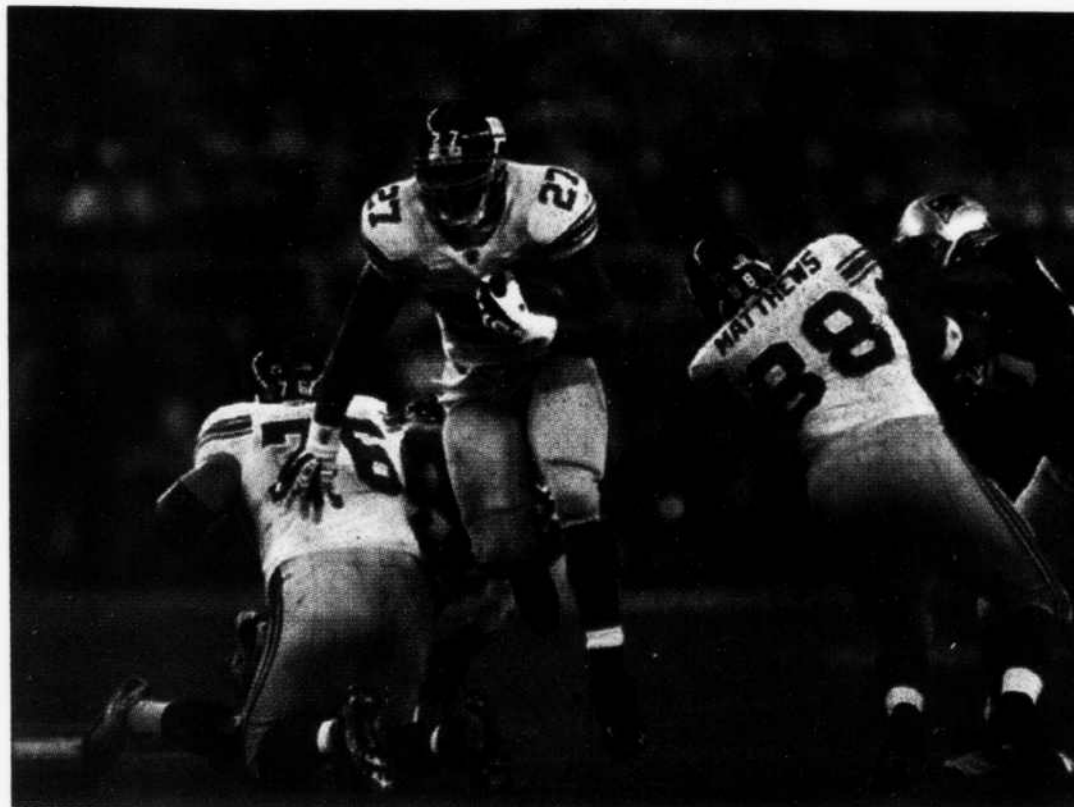


MARINEOFFICER.COM

Giants win Super Bowl XLII 17-14



New York Giants pep themselves up on the field before they take on the New England Patriots at Super Bowl XLII at the University of Phoenix Stadium on Feb. 3 in Phoenix, Ariz. (Photo by Ben Liebenberg / NFL.com)



Brandon Jacobs (27) of the New York Giants runs against the New England Patriots during Super Bowl XLII on Feb. 3 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. (Photo by Streeter Lecka/Getty Images)

Art Monk finally gets to Canton

Monk, Green, Tippet, Dean, Zimmerman and Thomas elected to Pro Football Hall of Fame

By Barry Wilner
AP Football Writer

Like the two old friends they are, Darrell Green and Art Monk chatted about the latest news in their lives: making the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Never mind that thousands of people were listening to the conference call after Saturday's announcement. This was simply two former Washington Redskins sharing verbal hugs after receiving the sport's highest honor.

"May I just say to you when I first came to Washington, you had just won the Super Bowl, you guys worked me over for nine weeks and I hated all of you," Green told Monk, drawing laughter.

"I appreciate your words," Monk told Green, who covered Monk in practices for years. "I was trying to hear some of the comments that you made and I feel the same way."

For the second straight year, former commissioner Paul Tagliabue failed to get elected.

Other players joining Green and Monk included New England linebacker Andre Tippett, San Diego/San Francisco defensive end Fred Dean, Minnesota/Denver tackle Gary Zimmerman and senior committee choice, Tampa Bay cornerback Emmitt Thomas.

Monk finally was chosen in his eighth year of eligibility. He concluded his career after the 1995 season with Philadelphia, but spent 13 years with the Redskins as one of the NFL's premier receivers. Monk held records for most consecutive games with a reception (164) and career catches (820). Both have been surpassed, but Monk didn't play in as wide-open an era on offense as many other receivers. He was one of the most consistent possession and third-down receivers in the league throughout his 14 pro seasons.

"Whether I deserved to play in the NFL or deserve even to be in Hall of Fame, I just loved the game, loved to play, loved being out

there," Monk said.

Green, one of the NFL's speediest and most skilled cornerbacks for two decades, spent his entire career (1983-2002) with the Redskins. He holds the record for consecutive seasons with an interception (19), and had 54 picks for 621 yards and six TDs. A member of the 1990s All-Decade team, Green made seven Pro Bowls.

"This is incredible. This is so special," Green said when informed of the vote. "This is out of this world. This literally transcends football, everything I have gone through to do what I was able to do. It was more than the ability to run and cover. It just goes so far beyond that."

The other player in his first year of eligibility, receiver Cris Carter, was not elected. Carter finished his 15-year career second on the career list in receptions and TD catches.

Inductions will be at the Pro Football Hall of Game in Canton, Ohio on Aug. 2.

"I looked forward to the day we are going to Canton," Green said, breaking up with emotion. "Hopefully, there are several hundred thousand hotels there, and several hundred thousand tickets."

Perhaps the most surprising outcome was that Tagliabue, again, did not get enough support.

In his 17 years as commissioner, the NFL experienced no labor stoppages, while its revenues from TV contracts skyrocketed. There also were expansions to Jacksonville, Charlotte, Cleveland and Houston under his watch, and several teams moved into new stadiums, many of them built with public funds.

But many, including some reporters on the 44-member selection committee, found Tagliabue unapproachable and uncooperative.

Also failing to get in were Redskins guard Russ Grimm, Buffalo Bills receiver Andre Reed, Oakland Raiders punter Ray Guy, Denver Broncos linebacker Randy Gradishar, Chicago Bears defensive end Richard Dent, Miami Dolphins guard Bob Kuechenberg, Vikings guard Randall McDaniel, and Kansas City Chiefs linebacker

Derrick Thomas.

Senior committee nominee Marshall Goldberg was not elected, either.

Tippett, who is in town as the Patriots' director of community affairs, was considered the best linebacker in the AFC during an era when Lawrence Taylor ruled the other conference. An outstanding pass rusher who also could handle coverage, Tippett was a force against the run after a stint in junior college and a standout career at Iowa.

"This is by far the proudest moment of my professional football career," said Tippett, who made the NFL's 1980s All-Decade team and waited 10 years for this day. "I will be joining the greats of the game and I am deeply honored."

Although he weighed only 230, Dean was a fearsome pass rusher because of his speed and agility; blockers struggled to get their hands on him. He starred with the Chargers from 1975-81, then with the 49ers from 1981-85.

"All I can say is thank you. I am trying to get my heart in order, it's still racing," Dean said.

Zimmerman was a standout for the Vikings from 1986-92 and the Broncos from 1993-97, winning a Super Bowl in his final season. He made his reputation in the USFL before joining Minnesota.

"I am in shock right now," Zimmerman said.

Thomas, who also was Green's position coach for years in Washington, was a superb bump-and-run and coverage cornerback for the Chiefs from 1966-78. He was the interim coach of the Falcons at the end of the 2007 season and has been retained as an assistant by new coach Mike Smith.

Thomas was thrilled with the company he is keeping, most specifically Green and Monk.

"Those guys have high character. I'm proud to go in with them."

Woods wins his second event of the 2008 season

Tiger Woods comes from behind to take Dubai Desert Classic from Els

By Anna Johnson
AP Writer

Tiger Woods birdied his last two holes Sunday to rally from a four-shot deficit and win the Dubai Desert Classic, starting his season with two victories that looked nothing alike.

One week after winning the Buick Invitational by eight shots, Woods had to birdie five of his last seven holes for a 7-under 65, then wait to see if Ernie Els could catch him.

Needing a birdie on the par-5 18th to force a playoff, Els hit his second shot into the water and made bogey.

"To go 2-for-2, it's a pretty good start, isn't it?" Woods said.

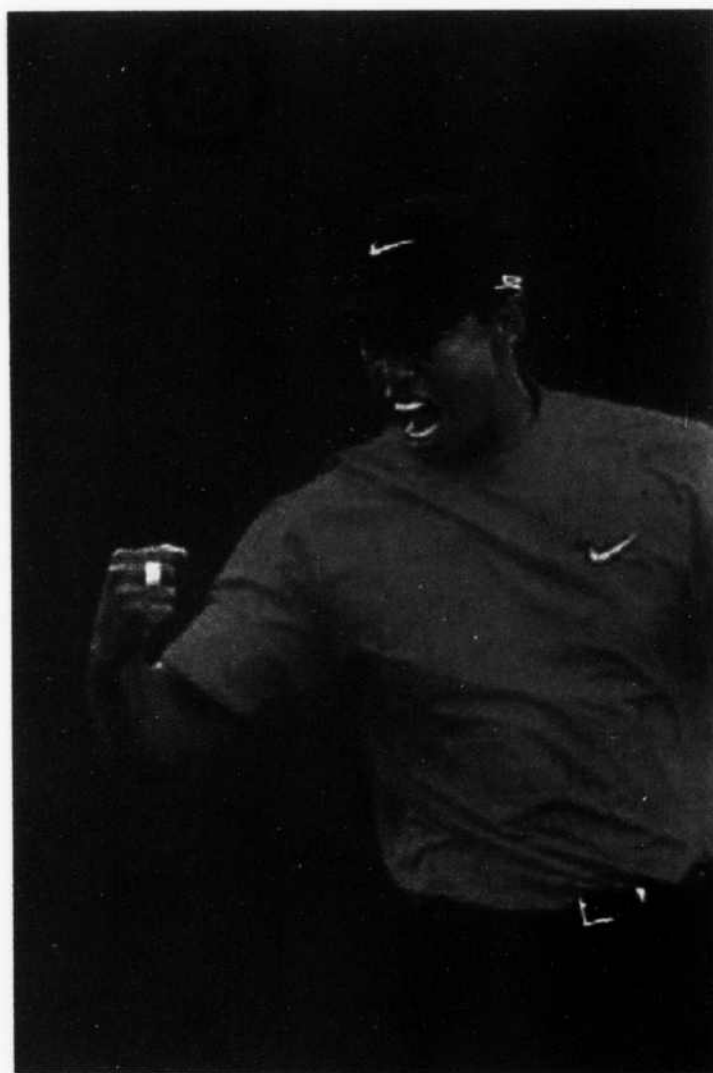
This is the third time he has started a season with two straight victories, and it was another sign that the world's No. 1 player could be headed for a big year. Woods now has won his last four official tournaments, and six of his last seven dating to the Bridgestone Invitational in early August.

He also won his unofficial Target World Challenge by seven shots in December.

Woods holed a 25-foot birdie on the last hole for a 14-under 274 and a one-shot victory over Martin Kaymer of Germany. Woods had already finished when Kaymer, who won the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship two weeks ago, closed with a birdie-birdie-eagle for a 66.

It was a devastating blow to Els.

The 38-year-old South African, who has finished runner-up to Woods more times (seven) than any other player, is in the middle of his three-year plan to become No. 1 in the world. He said recently he needed to start winning, and this was the perfect occasion.



After winning the Buick Invitational last week, Woods is victorious again, this time winning the Dubai Desert Classic.

Instead, the Big Easy closed with a 71 and tied for third at 276 with fellow South African Louis Oosthuizen. It was the second time in three years that Els hit into the water on the 18th at Dubai and lost to Woods. In 2006, it happened during a sudden-death playoff.

Woods lost momentum with bogeys on the sixth and ninth holes, but he poured it on along the back nine with seven birdies to capture the Dubai Desert Classic for the second time.

It was his 72nd career victory, 62 of those on the PGA Tour.

SPORTS: Super Bowl

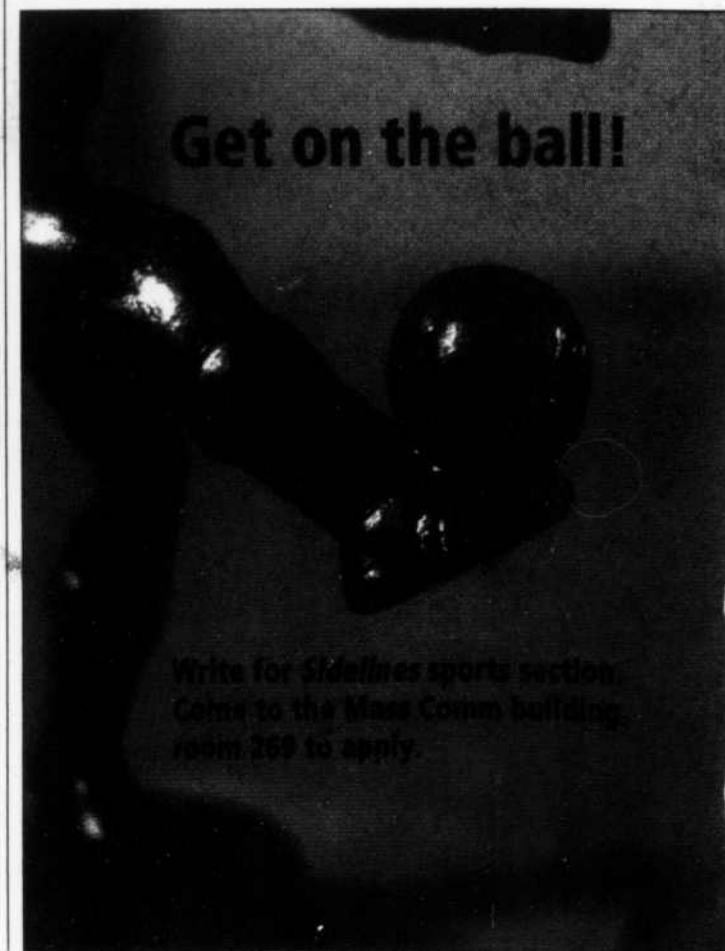
Continued from page 8

the most exciting postseason in all of sports. As improbable as it was for a team like the Giants to make it to the Super Bowl, it was astronomically less likely that George Mason would make it to the Final Four in 2006.

So, now that the Giants and Patriots have finally settled things out on the gridiron, we can finally get back to normal and not worry about Eli's psyche or whether or not the Patriots can go through the season without a blemish on their record and actually read about sports like basketball.

I assure you, they still exist.

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major and can be reached at cgm2m@mtsu.edu



Write for Sidelines sports section. Come to the Mass Comm building room 269 to apply.